

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD; EAGR

SUBJECT: INFORMATION FOR FAO ON US SPONSORED AD HOC MEETING
ON GRAIN RESERVES, LONDON, FEB 10-11.

REF: (A) ROME 2422; (B) LONDON 2092; (C) LONDON 2044

1. YOU MAY ORALLY BRIEF FAO OFFICIALS ON OUTCOME OF LONDON
AD HOC MEETING ON RESERVES BY DRAWING ON FOLLOWING SUMMARY.
2. US SUGGESTED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR CEREALS EX-
PORTING AND IMPORTING COUNTRIES MEET IN LONDON TO CONSIDER
COOPERATION IN MEETING FOOD SECURITY NEEDS THROUGH DEVELOP-
MENT OF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF NATIONAL GRAIN RESERVES.
THIS SUGGESTION WAS MADE PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF WORLD
FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION XVII WHICH INVITED GOVERNMENTS OF
MAJOR FOOD PRODUCING, CONSUMING AND TRADING COUNTRIES TO
QUOTE ENTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE INTO DISCUSSION IN APPROP-
RIATE INTERNATIONAL FORA, WITH A VIEW TO ACCELERATING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSED
INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY ...

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UNQUOTE.

3. THE AD HOC MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BRAZIL, CANADA, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, EGYPT, JAPAN, THAILAND, USSR AND THE UNITED STATES PLUS OBSERVERS FROM EIGHT EC MEMBER STATES. THE SUBSTANTIVE

AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: (A) PURPOSES OF A GRAIN RESERVES SYSTEM, (B) ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A GRAIN RESERVES SYSTEM; (C) PROCEDURE FOR NEGOTIATION OF A GRAIN RESERVES SYSTEM; (D) RELATIONSHIP OF A GRAIN RESERVES SYSTEM TO EXISTING INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS; (E) PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP IN A GRAIN RESERVES SYSTEM.

MR. J. H. PAROTTE (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL) WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY.

4. FOLLOWING A USEFUL AND WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION OF FOREGOING AGENDA ITEMS, IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT FURTHER TECHNICAL WORK WAS NEEDED BEFORE DECISIONS LEADING TO POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS CAN BE TAKEN. MEETING CONTRIBUTED TO A CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON GENERAL ELEMENTS OF A GRAIN RESERVES SCHEME AND HELPED CLARIFY PRACTICAL ISSUES INVOLVED. CONSENSUS EMERGED IN FAVOR OF CONDUCTING FURTHER TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF ISSUES RELATED TO RESERVES IN INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL (IWC) FRAMEWORK.

5. SUBSEQUENT TO AD HOC MEETING ON GRAIN RESERVES, IWC AT ITS 73ND SESSION ESTABLISHED WORKING GROUP TO "EXAMINE THE POSSIBLE BASES FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT AND REPORT PROGRESS TO THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COUNCIL." NEXT COUNCIL MEETING IS JUNE 30.

6. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON WHEN WE MAY CONVENE ANOTHER AD HOC MEETING OF THE RESERVES GROUP.

7. IN REGARD TO PARA. 2, REF (A), YOU SHOULD NOT, RPT NOT RELEASE REPORT ON EXPORTERS MEETING GIVEN LONDON 2044 (REF C) TO FAO, IN VIEW OF EXPRESSED DESIRE OF SOME PARTICIPANTS THAT PUBLICITY ABOUT MEETING BE MINIMIZED. IF ASKED, YOU MAY, HOWEVER, CONFIRM TO FAO THAT EXPORTERS' MEETING WAS HELD FEBRUARY 8, AND INDICATE THAT ITS MAJOR PURPOSE WAS A REVIEW AMONG MAJOR EXPORTERS (US, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, ARGENTINA AND EC) OF CURRENT SUPPLY SITUATION AND CROP PROSPECTS FOR 1975/76. KISSINGER
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